

**Henry J. Austin Health Center, Trenton**  
**Announcement of \$8.1 million in HIV/AIDS Grants**  
**March 21, 2012: 1-2 pm**

Introduction:

- Thank you to CEO George Stokes and Medical Director Dr. Kemi Ali for hosting us this afternoon
- Henry J. Austin Health Center does a tremendous job serving the Trenton community—providing a critical safety net for those most in need
- Our Department recognizes the valuable partnership we have with Henry J. Austin and last year we were happy to provide more than \$3 million in funding to support their efforts to improve the health of the Trenton community
- The Center plays a vital role in ensuring the health of the uninsured and underinsured residents in Trenton and in Mercer County - especially those with HIV/AIDS

Grant Awards:

- So it is appropriate that we are here today to announce the Department is awarding \$8.1 million in funding to support care of residents with HIV/AIDS
- The Department is awarding \$6.3 million in federal grant funding to 17 health care organizations across New Jersey for comprehensive medical care and services for those with HIV/AIDS
- The funding will support: Home health care, medical transportation, substance abuse treatment, mental health counseling, hospice care and assistance with legal issues & health insurance
- The Department is also awarding \$1.8 million in CDC funding to enhance HIV testing and allow clinics in Newark, Camden, Atlantic City, Neptune and Jersey City to buy testing kits; and hire patient navigators to help those who test positive enroll into care. Patient navigators, who help patients through the maze of different health care & social services, will also provide counseling and outreach services to those living with HIV/AIDS

Henry J. Austin Health Center:

- In recognition of the comprehensive health care provided by Henry J. Austin in treating those with HIV, the center was awarded more than \$788,700 in Ryan White funding. The 3<sup>rd</sup> largest grant awarded by DHSS.

- Henry J. Austin's approach is innovative because they are consolidating all services in one health home—they are viewing services from the patient perspective & minimizing barriers to care by providing all services in one place
- The center provides all aspects of direct patient care including counseling and testing, transportation, pharmaceutical assistance and two patient navigators. And the center will also soon be providing mental health services for clients provided by a physician and an advanced practice nurse
- When making decisions on where to direct funds, great attention was paid to ensure that programs that made the greatest impact on the HIV/AIDS community received funding—Henry J Austin was one of those programs that demonstrated it could comprehensively meet the needs of this population
- Henry J. Austin is a state leader in treating those affected by HIV/AIDS and as part of the Trenton Health Team they are re-designing how health care is delivered to the Trenton community to improve access to care & the health of residents as well as reign in health care costs.
- Henry J. Austin & the entire Trenton Health Team are a tremendous asset to the community & the Department is proud to support its work to ensure all Trenton residents have access to coordinated, quality care.

#### Success in Fighting HIV/AIDS

- Thanks to strong health care leaders like Henry J. Austin, NJ has seen great advances in the fight against HIV/AIDS
- In fact, there has been a 68% decline in the annual number of new cases of HIV/AIDS between 2000 and 2009
- In 2010, only 4 infants in New Jersey were born HIV Positive – a drop of 90% since 2000
- And while successes such as these should be celebrated, much more needs to be done – especially among NJ's African American population, who are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS

#### AIDS in New Jersey's Black Community:

- African-Americans are 14% of NJ's total population; however they represent 54% of those living with HIV/AIDS in the state.
- African American women represent the majority of infections among women—from 2007-2009 the rate of HIV/AIDS diagnosis among African American women was 32 times higher than among white women

- And nearly 70% of children living with HIV/AIDS are African American
- These disparities are unacceptable, and DHSS relies on health centers such as Henry J. Austin to provide care and help fight the battle against HIV/AIDS

#### State HIV/AIDS Services:

- The grants we are announcing today further NJ's strong commitment to helping New Jerseyans with HIV/AIDS
- The state's AIDS Drug Distribution Program serves nearly 7,000 low income individuals with HIV/AIDS.
  - It is one of the most generous ADDP programs in the nation--providing, free of charge, a wide range of medications those with incomes below 500% of the federal poverty level
  - And unlike many other states, NJ has never had waiting list for this program
- Along with Henry J. Austin - DHSS supports 148 other Rapid HIV testing sites across New Jersey with testing facilities in every county
  - More than 100,000 tests were performed at these sites in 2011

#### Closing

- It is reassuring that the Department & its partners efforts have been making an impact & we are seeing a great decline in new cases—however we still have much work ahead of us
- Through the funding announced today—providers around the state will have increased resources to test more residents & ensure they get the comprehensive care they need
- Working together, we can improve the quality of life of New Jerseyans affected by HIV/AIDS